

1 AN ACT to amend the Illinois Vehicle Code by changing
2 Sections 15-102 and 15-107.

3 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
4 represented in the General Assembly:

5 Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by
6 changing Sections 15-102 and 15-107 as follows:

7 (625 ILCS 5/15-102) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 15-102)
8 Sec. 15-102. Width of Vehicles.

9 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Section or this
10 Code, the total outside width of any vehicle or load thereon
11 shall not exceed 8 feet.

12 (a-1) The total outside width of a recreational vehicle
13 as defined in Section 1-169 may exceed 8 feet 6 inches by no
14 more than 6 inches on one side of the vehicle if the excess
15 width is attributable to appurtenances, including retracted
16 awnings.

17 (b) Except during those times when, due to insufficient
18 light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and
19 vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a
20 distance of 1000 feet, the following vehicles may exceed the
21 8 feet limitation during the period from a half hour before
22 sunrise to a half hour after sunset:

23 (1) Loads of hay, straw or other similar farm
24 products provided that the load is not more than 12 feet
25 wide.

26 (2) Implements of husbandry being transported on
27 another vehicle and the transporting vehicle while
28 loaded.

29 The following requirements apply to the
30 transportation on another vehicle of an implement of
31 husbandry wider than 8 feet 6 inches on the National

1 System of Interstate and Defense Highways or other
2 highways in the system of State highways:

3 (A) The driver of a vehicle transporting an
4 implement of husbandry that exceeds 8 feet 6 inches
5 in width shall obey all traffic laws and shall check
6 the roadways prior to making a movement in order to
7 ensure that adequate clearance is available for the
8 movement. It is prima facie evidence that the
9 driver of a vehicle transporting an implement of
10 husbandry has failed to check the roadway prior to
11 making a movement if the vehicle is involved in a
12 collision with a bridge, overpass, fixed structure,
13 or properly placed traffic control device or if the
14 vehicle blocks traffic due to its inability to
15 proceed because of a bridge, overpass, fixed
16 structure, or properly placed traffic control
17 device.

18 (B) Flags shall be displayed so as to wave
19 freely at the extremities of overwidth objects and
20 at the extreme ends of all protrusions, projections,
21 and overhangs. All flags shall be clean, bright red
22 flags with no advertising, wording, emblem, or
23 insignia inscribed upon them and at least 18 inches
24 square.

25 (C) "OVERSIZE LOAD" signs are mandatory on the
26 front and rear of all vehicles with loads over 10
27 feet wide. These signs must have 12-inch high black
28 letters with a 2-inch stroke on a yellow sign that
29 is 7 feet wide by 18 inches high.

30 (D) One civilian escort vehicle is required
31 for a load that exceeds 14 feet 6 inches in width
32 and 2 civilian escort vehicles are required for a
33 load that exceeds 16 feet in width on the National
34 System of Interstate and Defense Highways or other

1 highways in the system of State highways.

2 (E) The requirements for a civilian escort
3 vehicle and driver are as follows:

4 (1) The civilian escort vehicle shall be
5 a passenger car or a second division vehicle
6 not exceeding a gross vehicle weight of 8,000
7 pounds that is designed to afford clear and
8 unobstructed vision to both front and rear.

9 (2) The escort vehicle driver must be
10 properly licensed to operate the vehicle.

11 (3) While in use, the escort vehicle must
12 be equipped with illuminated rotating,
13 oscillating, or flashing amber lights or
14 flashing amber strobe lights mounted on top
15 that are of sufficient intensity to be visible
16 at 500 feet in normal sunlight.

17 (4) "OVERSIZE LOAD" signs are mandatory
18 on all escort vehicles. The sign on an escort
19 vehicle shall have 8-inch high black letters on
20 a yellow sign that is 5 feet wide by 12 inches
21 high.

22 (5) When only one escort vehicle is
23 required and it is operating on a two-lane
24 highway, the escort vehicle shall travel
25 approximately 300 feet ahead of the load. The
26 rotating, oscillating, or flashing lights or
27 flashing amber strobe lights and an "OVERSIZE
28 LOAD" sign shall be displayed on the escort
29 vehicle and shall be visible from the front.
30 When only one escort vehicle is required and it
31 is operating on a multilane divided highway,
32 the escort vehicle shall travel approximately
33 300 feet behind the load and the sign and
34 lights shall be visible from the rear.

1 (6) When 2 escort vehicles are required,
2 one escort shall travel approximately 300 feet
3 ahead of the load and the second escort shall
4 travel approximately 300 feet behind the load.
5 The rotating, oscillating, or flashing lights
6 or flashing amber strobe lights and an
7 "OVERSIZE LOAD" sign shall be displayed on the
8 escort vehicles and shall be visible from the
9 front on the lead escort and from the rear on
10 the trailing escort.

11 (7) When traveling within the corporate
12 limits of a municipality, the escort vehicle
13 shall maintain a reasonable and proper distance
14 from the oversize load, consistent with
15 existing traffic conditions.

16 (8) A separate escort shall be provided
17 for each load hauled.

18 (9) The driver of an escort vehicle shall
19 obey all traffic laws.

20 (10) The escort vehicle must be in safe
21 operational condition.

22 (11) The driver of the escort vehicle
23 must be in radio contact with the driver of the
24 vehicle carrying the oversize load.

25 (F) A transport vehicle while under load of
26 more than 8 feet 6 inches in width must be equipped
27 with an illuminated rotating, oscillating, or
28 flashing amber light or lights or a flashing amber
29 strobe light or lights mounted on the top of the cab
30 that are of sufficient intensity to be visible at
31 500 feet in normal sunlight. If the load on the
32 transport vehicle blocks the visibility of the amber
33 lighting from the rear of the vehicle, the vehicle
34 must also be equipped with an illuminated rotating,

1 oscillating, or flashing amber light or lights or a
2 flashing amber strobe light or lights mounted on the
3 rear of the load that are of sufficient intensity to
4 be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight.

5 (G) When a flashing amber light is required on
6 the transport vehicle under load and it is operating
7 on a two-lane highway, the transport vehicle shall
8 display to the rear at least one rotating,
9 oscillating, or flashing light or a flashing amber
10 strobe light and an "OVERSIZE LOAD" sign. When a
11 flashing amber light is required on the transport
12 vehicle under load and it is operating on a
13 multilane divided highway, the sign and light shall
14 be visible from the rear.

15 (H) Maximum speed shall be 45 miles per hour
16 on all such moves or 5 miles per hour above the
17 posted minimum speed limit, whichever is greater,
18 but the vehicle shall not at any time exceed the
19 posted maximum speed limit.

20 (3) Portable buildings designed and used for
21 agricultural and livestock raising operations that are
22 not more than 14 feet wide and with not more than a 1
23 foot overhang along the left side of the hauling vehicle.
24 However, the buildings shall not be transported more than
25 10 miles and not on any route that is part of the
26 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

27 All buildings when being transported shall display at
28 least 2 red cloth flags, not less than 12 inches square,
29 mounted as high as practicable on the left and right side of
30 the building.

31 A State Police escort shall be required if it is
32 necessary for this load to use part of the left lane when
33 crossing any 2 laned State highway bridge.

34 (c) Vehicles propelled by electric power obtained from

1 overhead trolley wires operated wholly within the corporate
2 limits of a municipality are also exempt from the width
3 limitation.

4 (d) Exemptions are also granted to vehicles designed for
5 the carrying of more than 10 persons under the following
6 conditions:

7 (1) (Blank);

8 (2) When operated within any public transportation
9 service with the approval of local authorities or an
10 appropriate public body authorized by law to provide
11 public transportation. Any vehicle so operated may be 8
12 feet 6 inches in width; or

13 (3) When a county engineer or superintendent of
14 highways, after giving due consideration to the mass
15 transportation needs of the area and to the width and
16 condition of the road, has determined that the operation
17 of buses wider than 8 feet will not pose an undue safety
18 hazard on a particular county or township road segment,
19 he or she may authorize buses not to exceed 8 feet 6
20 inches in width on any highway under that engineer's or
21 superintendent's jurisdiction.

22 (e) A vehicle and load traveling upon the National
23 System of Interstate and Defense Highways or any other
24 highway in the system of State highways that has been
25 designated as a Class I or Class II highway by the
26 Department, or any street or highway designated by local
27 authorities or road district commissioners, may have a total
28 outside width of 8 feet 6 inches, provided that certain
29 safety devices that the Department determines as necessary
30 for the safe and efficient operation of motor vehicles shall
31 not be included in the calculation of width.

32 Vehicles operating under this paragraph (e) shall have
33 access for a distance of one highway mile to or from a Class
34 I highway on any street or highway, unless there is a sign

1 prohibiting the access, or 5 highway miles to or from a Class
2 I or II highway on a street or highway included in the system
3 of State highways and upon any street or highway designated
4 by local authorities or road district commissioners, without
5 additional fees, to points of loading and unloading and to
6 facilities for food, fuel, repairs and rest. In addition, any
7 trailer or semitrailer not exceeding 28 feet 6 inches in
8 length, that was originally in combination with a truck
9 tractor, and all household goods carriers, when operating
10 under paragraph (e), shall have access to points of loading
11 and unloading.

12 Section 5-35 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act
13 relating to procedures for rulemaking shall not apply to the
14 designation of highways under this paragraph (e).

15 (f) Mirrors required by Section 12-502 of this Code and
16 other safety devices identified by the Department may project
17 up to 14 inches beyond each side of a bus and up to 6 inches
18 beyond each side of any other vehicle, and that projection
19 shall not be deemed a violation of the width restrictions of
20 this Section.

21 (g) Any person who is convicted of violating this
22 Section is subject to the penalty as provided in paragraph
23 (b) of Section 15-113.

24 (Source: P.A. 90-14, eff. 7-1-97; 91-780, eff. 6-9-00.)

25 (625 ILCS 5/15-107) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 15-107)

26 Sec. 15-107. Length of vehicles.

27 (a) Unless otherwise provided for in this Code, no
28 single vehicle, with or without load, other than a
29 semitrailer that is not a housetrailer, shall exceed an
30 overall length of 42 feet.

31 (a-1) A motor home as defined in Section 1-145.01 may be
32 up to 45 feet in length, not including energy absorbing
33 bumpers. The length limitations described in this subsection

1 (a-1) shall be exclusive of safety and energy conservation
2 devices, such as rear view mirrors, turn signals, marker
3 lamps, steps and handholds for entry and egress, flexible
4 fender extensions, bumpers, mudflaps and splash and spray
5 suppressant devices, load-induced tire bulge, refrigeration
6 units or air compressors and other devices, that the
7 Department may interpret as necessary for safe and efficient
8 operation; except that no device excluded under this
9 subsection (a-1) shall have by its design or use the
10 capability to carry cargo.

11 (b) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (f) and
12 unless otherwise provided in this Code, no truck tractor and
13 semitrailer, unladen or with load, except a semitrailer other
14 than a house trailer, shall exceed a length of 55 feet
15 extreme overall dimension, except that the combination when
16 specially designed to transport motor vehicles may have a
17 length of 60 feet extreme overall dimension, subject to those
18 exceptions and special rules otherwise stated in this Code.
19 No other combination of vehicles, unladen or with load, shall
20 exceed a length of 60 feet extreme overall dimension.

21 (c) A truck tractor semitrailer may draw one trailer, or
22 a converter dolly, or a vehicle that is special mobile
23 equipment if the extreme length of the combination does not
24 exceed 60 feet, and a truck in transit may draw 3 trucks in
25 transit coupled together by the triple saddlemount method.
26 Except as otherwise provided, no other combinations of
27 vehicles coupled together shall consist of more than 2
28 vehicles. For the purposes of this paragraph, a tow-dolly
29 that merely serves as substitute wheels for another legally
30 licensed vehicle will be considered part of the vehicle and
31 not as a separate vehicle.

32 Vehicles in combination, whether being operated
33 intrastate or interstate, shall be operated and towed in
34 compliance with all requirements of Federal Highway

1 Administration, Title 49, C. F. R., Motor Carrier Safety
2 Regulations, pertaining to coupling devices and towing
3 methods and all other equipment safety requirements set forth
4 in the regulations.

5 (c-1) A recreational vehicle as defined in Section 1-169
6 may tow another vehicle if the total length of the
7 combination of vehicles does not exceed 65 feet. The length
8 limitations described in this subsection (c-1) shall be
9 exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices, such as
10 rear view mirrors, turn signals, marker lamps, steps and
11 handholds for entry and egress, flexible fender extensions,
12 bumpers, mudflaps and splash and spray suppressant devices,
13 load-induced tire bulge, refrigeration units or air
14 compressors and other devices, that the Department may
15 interpret as necessary for safe and efficient operation;
16 except that no device excluded under this subsection (c-1)
17 shall have by its design or use the capability to carry
18 cargo.

19 (d) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Code,
20 there is no overall length limitation on motor vehicles
21 operating in truck tractor-semitrailer or truck
22 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combinations, except that
23 maxi-cube combinations as defined in this Section, and a
24 combination of vehicles specifically designed to transport
25 motor vehicles or boats, shall not exceed 65 feet overall
26 length, and provided that a stinger steered combination of
27 vehicles specifically designed to transport motor vehicles or
28 boats and a truck in transit transporting 3 trucks coupled
29 together by the triple saddlemount method shall not exceed 75
30 feet overall length, with the length limitations inclusive of
31 front and rear bumpers but exclusive of the overhang of the
32 transported vehicles as provided for in paragraph (i) of this
33 Section, upon the National System of Interstate and Defense
34 Highways or any other highways in the system of State

1 highways that have been designated Class I highways by the
2 Department or any street or highway designated by local
3 authorities or road district commissioners; provided that the
4 length of the semitrailer unit, unladen or with load,
5 operated in a truck tractor-semitrailer combination shall not
6 exceed 53 feet and the distance between the kingpin and the
7 center of the rear axle of a semitrailer longer than 48 feet
8 shall not exceed 45 feet, 6 inches; and provided that the
9 length of any semitrailer or trailer, unladen or with load,
10 operated in a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination
11 shall not exceed 28 feet 6 inches.

12 The length limitations described in this paragraph (d)
13 shall be exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices,
14 such as rear view mirrors, turn signals, marker lamps, steps
15 and handholds for entry and egress, flexible fender
16 extensions, bumpers, mudflaps and splash and spray
17 suppressant devices, load-induced tire bulge, refrigeration
18 units or air compressors and other devices, that the
19 Department may interpret as necessary for safe and efficient
20 operation; except that no device excluded under this
21 paragraph shall have by its design or use the capability to
22 carry cargo.

23 Vehicles operating under this paragraph (d) shall have
24 access for a distance of one highway mile to or from a Class
25 I highway on any street or highway, unless there is a sign
26 prohibiting the access, or 5 highway miles on a street or
27 highway in the system of State highways, and upon any street
28 or highway designated, without additional fees, by local
29 authorities or road district commissioners, to points of
30 loading and unloading and facilities for food, fuel, repairs
31 and rest. Household goods carriers shall have access to
32 points of loading and unloading.

33 Section 5-35 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act
34 relating to procedures for rulemaking shall not apply to the

1 designation of highways under this paragraph (d).

2 (e) In addition to the designation of highways under
3 paragraph (d) the Department may designate other streets or
4 highways in the system of State highways as Class II
5 highways. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Code,
6 effective June 1, 1996 there is no overall length limitation
7 on motor vehicles operating in truck tractor-semitrailer
8 combinations operating upon designated Class II highways,
9 provided the length of the semitrailer unit, unladen or with
10 load, operated in a truck tractor-semitrailer combination
11 shall not exceed 53 feet and the distance between the kingpin
12 and the center of the rear axle of a semitrailer longer than
13 48 feet shall not exceed 45 feet, 6 inches. A truck
14 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination may be operated
15 provided that the wheelbase between the front axle and rear
16 axle shall not exceed 65 feet and the length of any
17 semitrailer or trailer, unladen or with load, in a
18 combination shall not exceed 28 feet 6 inches. Local
19 authorities and road district commissioners with respect to
20 streets and highways under their jurisdiction, may also by
21 ordinance or resolution allow the length limitations of this
22 paragraph (e).

23 A maxi-cube combination, a truck in transit transporting
24 3 trucks coupled together by the triple saddlemount method,
25 and a combination of vehicles specifically designed to
26 transport motor vehicles or boats may operate on the
27 designated streets or highways provided the overall length
28 shall not exceed 65 feet, and provided that a stinger steered
29 combination of vehicles specifically designed to transport
30 motor vehicles or boats shall not exceed 75 feet overall
31 length, with the length limitations inclusive of front and
32 rear bumpers but exclusive of the overhang of the transported
33 vehicles as provided for in paragraph (i) of this Section.

34 The length limitations described in this paragraph (e)

1 shall be exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices,
2 such as rear view mirrors, turn signals, marker lamps, steps
3 and handholds for entry and egress, flexible fender
4 extensions, bumpers, mudflaps and splash and spray
5 suppressant devices, load-induced tire bulge, refrigeration
6 units or air compressors and other devices, that the
7 Department may interpret as necessary for safe and efficient
8 operation; except that no device excluded under this
9 paragraph shall have by its design or use the capability to
10 carry cargo.

11 Vehicles operating under this paragraph (e) shall have
12 access for a distance of 5 highway miles on a street or
13 highway in the system of State highways, and upon any street
14 or highway designated by local authorities or road district
15 commissioners, to points of loading and unloading and to
16 facilities for food, fuel, repairs and rest. Household goods
17 carriers shall have access to points of loading and
18 unloading.

19 Section 5-35 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act
20 relating to procedures for rulemaking shall not apply to the
21 designation of highways under this paragraph (e).

22 (f) On any street or highway in the system of State
23 highways that has not been designated by the Department under
24 paragraph (d) or (e), the wheelbase between the front axle
25 and the rear axle in a truck tractor-semitrailer combination
26 shall not exceed 55 feet or, effective June 1, 1996, no truck
27 tractor and semitrailer, unladen or with load, except a
28 semitrailer other than a house trailer, shall exceed a length
29 of 65 feet between extreme overall dimensions, the length of
30 the semitrailer, unladen or with load, shall not exceed 53
31 feet and the distance between the kingpin and the center of
32 the rear axle of a semitrailer longer than 48 feet shall not
33 exceed 42 feet, 6 inches. On any street or highway in the
34 State system of highways that has not been designated by the

1 Department under paragraph (d) or (e), no truck
2 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination shall exceed a length
3 of 60 feet extreme overall dimension.

4 (g) Length limitations in the preceding subsections of
5 this Section 15-107 shall not apply to vehicles operated in
6 the daytime, except on Saturdays, Sundays or legal holidays,
7 when transporting poles, pipe, machinery or other objects of
8 a structural nature that cannot readily be dismembered, nor
9 to vehicles transporting those objects operated on Saturdays,
10 Sundays or legal holidays or at nighttime by a public utility
11 when required for emergency repair of public service
12 facilities or properties, but in respect to the night
13 operation every vehicle and the load thereon shall be
14 equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps on both
15 sides and marker lamps upon the extreme ends of any
16 projecting load to clearly mark the dimensions of the load,
17 provided that the overall length of vehicle and load shall
18 not exceed 100 feet and no object exceeding 80 feet in length
19 shall be transported, except by a public utility when
20 required for emergency repairs, unless a permit has first
21 been obtained as authorized in Section 15-301. A combination
22 of vehicles, including a tow truck and a disabled vehicle or
23 disabled combination of vehicles, that exceeds the length
24 restriction imposed by this Code, may be operated on a public
25 highway in this State upon the following conditions:

- 26 (1) The towing vehicle must be:
- 27 a. specifically designed as a tow truck having
 - 28 a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 18,000
 - 29 lbs. and equipped with air brakes;
 - 30 b. equipped with flashing, rotating or
 - 31 oscillating amber lights, visible for a least 500
 - 32 feet in all directions; and
 - 33 c. capable of utilizing the lighting and
 - 34 braking systems of the disabled vehicle or

1 combination of vehicles.

2 (2) The towing of vehicles on the highways of this
3 State shall not exceed 50 miles from the initial point of
4 wreck or disablement. Any additional movement of the
5 vehicles shall only occur upon issuance of authorization
6 for that movement under the provisions of Section 15-301
7 through 15-319 of this Chapter.

8 The Department may by rule or regulation prescribe
9 additional requirements regarding length limitations for a
10 tow truck towing another vehicle.

11 For the purpose of this subsection, gross vehicle weight
12 rating, or GVWR, shall mean the value specified by the
13 manufacturer as the loaded weight of the tow truck. Legal
14 holidays referred to in this Section shall be specified as
15 the day on which the following traditional holidays are
16 celebrated:

- 17 New Year's Day;
- 18 Memorial Day;
- 19 Independence Day;
- 20 Labor Day;
- 21 Thanksgiving Day; and
- 22 Christmas Day.

23 (h) The load upon any vehicle operated alone, or the
24 load upon the front vehicle of a combination of vehicles,
25 shall not extend more than 3 feet beyond the front wheels of
26 the vehicle or the front bumper of the vehicle if it is
27 equipped with a front bumper. The provisions of this
28 subsection (h) shall not apply to any vehicle or combination
29 of vehicles specifically designed for the collection and
30 transportation of waste, garbage, or recyclable materials
31 during the vehicle's operation in the course of collecting
32 garbage, waste, or recyclable materials if the vehicle is
33 traveling at a speed not in excess of 15 miles per hour
34 during the vehicle's operation and in the course of

1 collecting garbage, waste, or recyclable materials. However,
2 in no instance shall the load extend more than 7 feet beyond
3 the front wheels of the vehicle or the front bumper of the
4 vehicle if it is equipped with a front bumper.

5 (i) The load upon the front vehicle of a combination of
6 vehicles specifically designed to transport motor vehicles
7 shall not extend more than 3 feet beyond the foremost part of
8 the transporting vehicle and the load upon the rear
9 transporting vehicle shall not extend more than 4 feet beyond
10 the rear of the bed or body of the vehicle. This paragraph
11 shall only be applicable upon highways designated in
12 paragraphs (d) and (e) of this Section.

13 (j) Articulated vehicles comprised of 2 sections,
14 neither of which exceeds a length of 42 feet, designed for
15 the carrying of more than 10 persons, may be up to 60 feet in
16 length, not including energy absorbing bumpers, provided that
17 the vehicles are:

18 1. operated by or for any public body or motor
19 carrier authorized by law to provide public
20 transportation services; or

21 2. operated in local public transportation service
22 by any other person and the municipality in which the
23 service is to be provided approved the operation of the
24 vehicle.

25 (j-1) Charter or regulated route buses may be up to 45
26 feet in length, not including energy absorbing bumpers.

27 (k) Any person who is convicted of violating this
28 Section is subject to the penalty as provided in paragraph
29 (b) of Section 15-113.

30 (l) A combination of 3 vehicles not to exceed 60 feet
31 overall length may be operated on the highways of the State,
32 provided that the vehicles meet the following requirements:

33 (1) The towing vehicle is a properly registered
34 vehicle capable of towing another vehicle using a

1 fifth-wheel type assembly.

2 (2) The second vehicle in the combination of
3 vehicles shall be a recreational vehicle that is towed by
4 a fifth-wheel assembly. This vehicle shall be properly
5 registered and be equipped with brakes regardless of
6 weight.

7 (3) The third vehicle shall be the lightest of the
8 3 vehicles and be a trailer or semi-trailer designed or
9 used for transporting a boat, all-terrain vehicle,
10 personal watercraft, or motorcycle.

11 (4) The towed vehicles may only be for the use of
12 the operator of the towing vehicle.

13 (5) All vehicles shall be properly equipped with
14 operating brakes and safety equipment required by this
15 Code, except the additional brake requirement in
16 paragraph (2) above.

17 (Source: P.A. 89-219, eff. 1-1-96; 89-434, eff. 6-1-96;
18 89-626, eff. 8-9-96; 90-89, eff. 1-1-98; 90-147, eff.
19 7-23-97; 90-407, eff. 8-15-97; 90-655, eff. 7-30-98.)